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There are numerous illustrations of waterspouts, some from photographs and some from sketches, including among the former three pictures of the Marthas Vineyard waterspout of August 19, 1896, but there is no half-tone of a tornado funnel cloud. The remaining illustrations include maps, diagrams, and views of Weyher's experiments in the artificial production of whirlwinds. A brief discussion of the various theories regarding the origin of tornadoes and of the other less violent whirlwinds of Europe leads our author to acceptance of the mechanical theory. In this, "the temperature conditions are not considered the primary cause and the rotation the effect, but the rotation, whether produced mechanically or hydrodynamically, is believed to be the cause of the thermodynamic effects, the latter manifesting themselves in the condensation of the funnel cloud."

Dr. Wegener's monograph very satisfactorily fills in a missing chapter of modern meteorological science. It merits careful study.

R. DEC. WARD

JAPANESE RAINFALL

TORAHIKO TERADA, TOKEZO YOKOTA, AND SYOHU OTUKI. **On the Distribution of Cyclonic Precipitation in Japan.** 32 pp.; diagrs. *Journ. College of Sci., Tokyo Imp. Univ.*, Vol. 37, Art. 4, 1916. [Author's abstract in *Monthly Weather Rev.*, Vol. 44, 1916, pp. 127-128.]

All well-defined cyclones occurring in the Japanese region, 1905-1915, were used in making two sets of charts: (1) showing lines of equal percentage of precipitation expectation for different locations of cyclones; and (2) for six divisions of each of the three groups—Pacific, Middle, and Japan Sea—showing by lines the percentage rainfall expectation when cyclones are in different positions.

Temperature differences due to latitude here as elsewhere cause precipitation most frequently on the eastern side of the cyclone. The exposure of the Pacific coast to warm east and south winds gives it greater cyclonic rainfall frequency than the cooler Japan Sea coast.

The land side of a cyclone usually has less rainfall than the water side. On the Pacific coast of Japan the northeast quadrant is rainiest, while on the other coast the expectation of rain is about the same in all parts of a cyclone. On the western coast of Yezo, however, as in parts of western Europe, the greatest frequency comes in the southwest quadrant of a cyclone.

In mountainous Japan, Professor Terada emphasizes the topographic effect on precipitation. For instance, when a cyclone is some distance northwest, the expectation of precipitation is greatest on the coasts. On the Pacific side it rains because of the ocean air rising over the shore and mountains, on the Japan Sea coast because of cyclonic action. Topographical influence on the mere occurrence of rain is most apparent when a cyclone is far away: when it is in the southwest, the rain area extends far north on the Pacific coast of Japan; but when in the northeast, the rain area is most extensive southward on the Japan Sea coast.

These results seem strikingly like a description of the cyclonic distribution of precipitation in the eastern United States, where the Appalachians correspond to the Japanese mountains, and the Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley have effects similar to the Japan Sea (cf. in *Monthly Weather Rev.*: W. G. Reed, Vol. 39, 1911, pp. 1609-1615; C. F. Brooks, Vol. 42, 1914, pp. 318-330; H. H. Clayton, Vol. 44, 1916, p. 81, last paragraph and map).

CHARLES F. BROOKS

TRAVEL ON THE KANSU-TIBET BORDER

REGINALD FARRER. **On the Eaves of the World.** Vol. 1, xii and 311 pp.; map, ills.; Vol. 2, viii and 328 pp.; map, ills., index. Edward Arnold, London, 1917. 9 x 6 inches.

Mr. Farrer is a student of plant life. He visited the boundary region of Kansu-Tibet from south to north to look for flora that might stand the British climate better than products of the warmer parts of China. He was especially interested in looking for new flowers.

"On our grey mood the dawn came grey and weeping" is a fair specimen of the light, literary touch that permeates the whole work and is responsible for the thickness and weight of the two volumes. There is little geography and no geology in the book, but the author gives hundreds of pages to his travels along the roads, the people he met, and his pleasant and disagreeable experiences. Impressions so lightly gained are scarcely more than skin deep and have little worth in evaluating the essence of a country or people. Some three pages given to the vagaries of Mr. Farrer's cook seem to justify

the discharge of that person, but why should the public be called in to act as jurors in the case?

There are frequent though brief allusions to the author's botanical work. Thirty species that he discovered were new to science, and he brought home some plants whose flowers are strikingly delicate and beautiful. The index to the two volumes covers only a little over four pages and is largely botanical.

CYRUS C. ADAMS

A HISTORY OF CHINA

E. H. PARKER. **China: Her History, Diplomacy, and Commerce, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day.** 2nd edit. xxx and 419 pp.; maps, ill., glossary, index. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1917. \$2.50. 9 x 5½ inches.

This is a new and revised edition of a work that first appeared some sixteen years ago. It is a volume written by an expert, a profound scholar, a man of long residence in China and of wide experience and keen observation. The book is full of just such information concerning China as the busy man and the business man wants.

The only important matter contained in the first edition which is omitted in this is the chapter on the calendar, now no longer needed since the republic has adopted the Western solar year. Three new chapters have been added: one on "Law," a second on "Language and Literature," and a third on the "Rise of the Republic." The chapters of the old edition which have been retained, however, have been largely rewritten; and much new matter has been added to them, greatly increasing the value of the book.

It would be well if all the cynical critics of present-day China could be persuaded to read Mr. Parker's preface. It sets forth in crisp sentences and confident tones the opinion of one who thoroughly understands the Chinese people and sympathizes with them as few Western men can, although he is not blind to their faults. On the situation as it appeared to him in the early months of 1917 he thus comments:

"Suffice it to say that, although in Europe we seem day by day to hear chiefly of revolts and political squabbles in China, as a matter of fact the 'Eighteen Provinces' are not in such a very parlous condition after all, the chief reason for this modicum of happiness being that China is, as it ever has been, a nation of small owners and hardy cultivators, whose ethical teaching has for 2,000 years past inculcated a spirit of deference and order, a right to self-protection, and a family or clannish detachment from public and political authority."

He notes the great increase in the customs revenue which the recent revision of the tariff will further enhance, and he pays a well-deserved tribute to the work of Sir Richard Dane, who has reorganized the salt gabelle. This bids fair to become, probably indeed has already become, a more lucrative source of income than the maritime customs.

The new material in the chapter on "Geography" contains among other things a notice of the work of the Mission D'Ollone of 1906-09 and calls attention to the volume by Jacques Bacot in 1912. Mention is made, too, of the work by Rev. Samuel Clarke, of 1911. All these deal with interesting problems relating to the non-Chinese tribes of southwestern China.

In his chapter on "Language and Literature" the author unfortunately misses the trend of the evidence concerning the relationship between Chinese and Sumerian, which, as it appears to the reviewer, supports the belief, not that Chinese has been derived from Sumerian, but that both have had a common origin in Central Asia, the gradual desiccation of which region has driven the people to emigrate. The explorations conducted by Pumpelly in 1903 and 1904 have demonstrated the existence of a high degree of civilization there at a period placed at 8000 B. C.

E. T. WILLIAMS

THE STANDARD HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND

B. F. THOMPSON. **History of Long Island from Its Discovery and Settlement to the Present Time.** 3rd edit. revised and greatly enlarged with additions and a biography of the author by Charles J. Werner. Vol. 1, 1 and 538 pp.; map, ill.; Vol. 2, 649 pp.; ill.; Vol. 3, 677 pp.; map, ill., index. Robert H. Dodd, New York, 1918. \$18.00. 9 x 6 inches.

This book is assuredly a classic. No one can complete the reading of it for the first time without a sense of discovery; for it was not written, like the average history of a limited area by a non-professional historian, with much attention to sequences and very little to the larger relationships. There is almost as much of geography and economics in the volumes as of historical data. Much of it is made up of material of first-class importance to the social as well as to the political and economic historian.